Message Text

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PAGE 01   MOSCOW 00832 181424Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 SS-15 /039 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 0832

USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD (STECHSCHULTE) AND BEWT/USSR (HEISS)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, UR
SUBJECT: PULLMAN/USSR KAMAZ CONTRACT

1. TWO PULLMAN TECHNICIANS WORKING ON-SITE AT
KAMAZ TRUCK PLANT FOUNDRY TOLD COMOFF JANUARY 16 THAT
SOVIETS ARE OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS BEHIND IN
PAYMENTS TO PULLMAN FOR PLANT DESIGN SERVICES. (PULLMAN
STILL HAS ABOUT FIFTEEN ENGINEERS WORKING AT KAMAZ.) ALTHOUGH
SOURCES REPORTED THAT NO RPT NO NOTIFICATION HAS BEEN MADE YET
IN WRITING, PULLMAN OFFICIALS HAVE VERBALLY TOLD SOVIETS THAT
IF PAYMENT IS NOT FORTHCOMING COMPANY WILL BEGIN
WITHDRAWING PERSONNEL. SOURCES COULD NOT RPT NOT
ACCOUNT FOR SOVIET NON-PAYMENT, BUT STATED THAT AS FAR AS
THEY KNEW THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO MAJOR COMPLAINTS FROM SOVIETS
ABOUT PULLMAN PERFORMANCE.

2. STATUS OF FOUNDRY CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION. AS
WASHINGTON AGENCIES AWARE, PULLMAN HAS DESIGN CONTRACT FOR GRAY
IRON, STEEL, AND NON-FERROUS MELTING PLANTS AND FOUNDRIES AT
KAMAZ. PULLMAN TECHNICIANS REPORTED PRODUCTION LINES NOW OPERATING
AT ABOUT TWO-THIRDS CAPACITY AND STEEL FOUNDRY IS EXPERIENCING
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DIFFICULTIES WITH "GATES AND RISERS." AUTOMATIC
SEPARATING AND GRINDING EQUIPMENT HAS ALSO BEEN
MALFUNCTIONING. AS A RESULT, CASTINGS HAVE TO BE BROKEN
OFF AND GROUND DOWN MANUALLY. NEVERTHELESS, KAMAZ HAS ACHIEVED
OUTPUT OF 100 TRUCKS PER DAY, ALTHOUGH SPARE PARTS SITUATION
REMAINS CRITICAL. IN GRAY IRON FOUNDRY, ENGINE BLOCK CASTING
LINES ARE TURNING OUT AS MUCH AS 60 PERCENT REJECTS, ACCORDING

TO OUR SOURCES. TECHNICIANS RECOUNTED OFTEN-HEARD STORY ABOUT
UNSKILLED SOVIET WORKERS PLACED ON OPERATING LINES TO BE TRAINED
WITH PREDICTABLE RESULT OF HIGHLY INEFFICIENT PRODUCTION
AND WASTE OF PHYSICAL RESOURCES.

3. ON SITE LIVING CONDITIONS: SOURCES CITED NO RPT NO UNUSUAL
DIFFICULTIES.
MATLOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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